

U.S. PTO Customer No. 25280 MAY 23 2007 5287A

**REMARKS**

Applicants' attorney provides thanks the examiner for her kind attention in the interview held on May 9, 2007. This Amendment is provided to respond to questions and issues discussed at the interview.

Claims 1-18 were rejected in the recent Office Action for section 103(c) obviousness of Crouch et al. (U.S. Patent No. 2001/0049243) in view of Dreher (U.S. 6,106,038). The examiner suggests that applicants amend their claims to state how the folds are made and stitched as in the method. Further, the Office Action suggests that whether or not the airbag is internal or external be provided in the claims. Applicant has adopted the helpful suggestions of the Office Action, and claim amendments have been made to the claims. The amendments to the claims are fully supported by the specification, including portions of the specification at pages 6-8, and in Figures 2A, 2B, 2C, 3A, 3B, 3C, 4A, 4B, 4C, 5A, 5B, and 5C.

**THE COMBINATION OF CROUCH AND DREHER  
DOES NOT RENDER OBVIOUS THE CLAIMED INVENTION**

The combination of Crouch and Dreher does not render obvious the presently claimed method. Crouch discloses certain high tenacity yarns used for airbag fabrics. Crouch specifically cited the problems with solvent coating, and recommends instead extrusion coating for airbag fabric. As indicated in the Office Action of February 12, 2007: "Crouch et al does not explicitly suggest the structure of the seams around their airbags". Thus, there is no teaching in Crouch of folding a first fabric blank upon itself to form a folded portion and stitching the blanks together with a first stitch that connected the two blanks together by proceeding through the first blank at two different locations upon the first blank. The Crouch reference does not disclose any such method or structure.

Dreher discloses a replacement for the "5 mph bumpers" on the exterior of vehicles. Dreher shows and teaches an inflatable exterior air-filled structure mounted upon the front of an automobile. Stitching of this exterior mounted inflated structure may be as on conventional jean pant legs, with folds and so that each thread penetrates

U.S. PTO Customer No. 25280

5287A

four layers of fabric. However, Dreher does not disclose an airbag cushion for restraining an occupant in the interior of a transportation vehicle, explaining clearly that it is for exterior use: "The present invention is ..... bags on the exterior of a car or truck...." Dreher patent, column 6, lines 20-25. Further, there is no specific teaching to indicate that the Dreher inflatable exterior mounted device contains a seam that is made in a way that is described in the claims of the present invention. In fact, there are no illustrations in Dreher of the seaming method or technique that could be used, except to indicate that it is similar to that used for jeans. Further, Dreher contemplates multiple cylindrical bags in combination, and no such multiple bag system is contemplated by the present invention.

There is no reason that a person of skill in the art would look to an exterior mounted multiple airbag system in combination with the high tenacity airbag fabric of Crouch. In fact, a person of skill in the art would not be likely to combine Croch and Dreher at all, as they appear to be directed to two very different systems of restraint. Even if such a combination were made, the combination of Crouch with Dreher would be likely to result in a high tenacity yarn for use in fabric for exterior-mounted multiple chain airbag systems for vehicle exteriors.

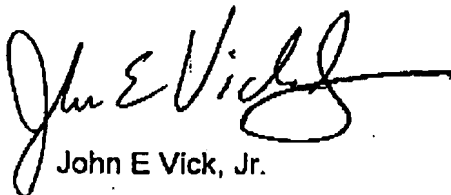
Applicants respectfully submit that the claims as amended are in condition for allowance, and a notice to that effect is requested. The Examiner is invited to call applicant's attorney in the interest of resolving further matters.

**Fee Authorization:** In the event that there are additional fees associated with the submission of these papers, Applicant hereby authorizes the Commissioner to withdraw those fees from our Deposit Account No. 04-0500.

U.S. PTO Customer No. 25280  
MAY 23 2007 5287A

**Extension of Time:** A one month extension of time request is submitted with this Amendment, and authorization is provided for Deposit Account No. 04-0500.

Respectfully submitted,



John E Vick, Jr.

Registration No. 33,808

Milliken & Company, M-495  
920 Milliken Road  
P.O. Box 1926  
Spartanburg, SC 29304  
Telephone: (864) 503-1383  
Facsimile: (864) 503-1999